



Newslines

Closings

The 20th Medical Group will offer only limited services from 1 to 4:30 p.m. today due to group training. The Base Exchange pharmacy, Hospital pharmacy, laboratory and radiology departments will close during this time. The Primary Care Clinic will be open for acute-care concerns only; call **895-2273** to schedule an acute-care appointment. For a medical emergency, call **911**.

Two local road closings are set that may affect traffic going to or from base. The roads set for closure to thru traffic for work on railroad tracks are Wedgefield Road Monday and Tuesday and St. Paul's Church Road Wednesday, Thursday and Feb. 14.

Saluting veterans

Sunday begins National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week. Team Shaw members are encouraged to visit hospitals and nursing homes. For more information, call 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs at **895-2024**.

ALS vacancy

Shaw's airman leadership school has an upcoming instructor vacancy. The reporting time is flexible, between December - January 2004. Applications must be received by Feb. 25.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Gary DeVault at **895-5304**.

Valentines messages

Send a free Valentines Day message to someone you care about to be printed in the Feb. 14 edition of *The Shaw Spirit*. Messages can be dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office in building 1122, e-mailed to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil or faxed to **895-2017**. Messages must be in by Monday.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chuck Hinrichs

In Dad's shadow

Sean, 9-year-old son of Capt. Mary, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Maj. Brian Harper, 20th FW chief of Wing Plans, spends time in a flight simulator Monday while his father guides him as part of local schools' shadow program. See story on Page 18.

55th's jets begin transfer to Cannon

By Staff Sgt. Lee Watts
Editor

On Jan. 31, two jets from the 55th Fighter Squadron departed Shaw headed for Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., where they landed and became part of the 27th Fighter Wing, 522nd Fighter Squadron.

The jets were transferred to Cannon as part of the 55th FS's inactivation. The inactivation is part of the Air Force's fiscal year 2003 force structure changes. Eventually, all of the 55th's jets are to be transferred to the 522nd. Currently, the 522nd flies block 30 F-16s, which are primarily air-to-ground aircraft. The 55th's aircraft are block 50s. This model of the F-16 is used for the mission of the suppression of enemy air defenses, more commonly referred to as SEAD.

Col. Robert Yates, 27th FW commander, was one of the pilots who flew the jets from Shaw to Cannon. He said, "Getting block 50s is very exciting. They are much more competent and capable of carrying out the SEAD mission than are the block 30s."

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Menefee, 522nd FS maintenance superintendent in charge of the transfer, said, "Going from Block 30s to 50s is a great opportunity for us (522nd FS) to step forward into a technologically higher world."

"I take great pride in these jets," said Senior Master Sgt. Randy Wiggins, 20th FW Quality Assurance superintendent. "Everyone at Shaw can take great pride in turning them over to the 522nd."

According to Menefee, the transfer of the 55th's jets is expected to be complete by the end of this fiscal year. "The block 30s used by the 522nd now will go to an Air National Guard unit," he said.

The departure of the two jets from here is the first step in the inactivation of the 55th FS. The 55th's facilities eventual use will be determined by the base Facility Utilization Board – any modifications necessary will take place once the inactivation is complete.

Along with the moving of aircraft is the moving of the people who make up the 55th.

Col. Bill Rew, 20th FW commander, said, "There's no one answer for the personnel question – some will be absorbed into the other fighter squadrons, but others will PCS in accordance with normal PCS timelines and Air Force needs."



Weekend weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
A. M. rain High: 50 Low: 39	Partly cloudy High: 52 Low: 34	Partly cloudy High: 52 Low: 28

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

Inside: Page 5 O-5 list: Shaw majors selected for promotion.
Page 14 Black History Month: a history of the celebration.

Tax tips offered for deploying members

By 1st Lt. Elwood Waters
20th Fighter Wing Legal Office

There are four options for paying taxes for Team Shaw members about to deploy: 1) file taxes before deployment; 2) authorize a spouse or other trusted individual to file the return; 3) if married and filing a joint return and one spouse is deployed to a designated Combat Zone or Qualified Hazardous Duty Area, have the non-deployed spouse sign the return; or 4) take advantage of the filing extensions authorized for service members in a CZ or QHDA.

If the member has all the documents necessary to file taxes, officials from the legal office say the best option is to file before departure.

The first alternative is to give a trusted person a power of attorney giving that person the authority to sign and file the tax return. The legal office can draft one or members can use IRS Form 2848, available at www.irs.gov. For Team Shaw members who are already deployed or not available to sign the power of attorney form, there are other options.

The second alternative applies to those who are married and filing a joint return. If one spouse is deployed to a CZ, QHDA or providing direct support of those operations, the IRS will accept the signature of the non-deployed spouse on the return. The non-deployed spouse must attach a statement to the return explaining the member is serving in a CZ or QHDA and is not available to sign the return. The specific CZ or QHDA should be cited in the statement. This option is not available to married couples filing separate returns.

Both options allow the return to be filed and refund obtained without the deployed person having to sign the return.

The third alternative is for members serving in a CZ or QHDA or in direct support of those operations. They are entitled to an automatic 180-day extension of time to file their returns. This time begins after the last day the member is in a CZ or QHDA. Additionally, this time is extended further by the time remaining for filing when the member entered the CZ/QHDA.

For example, a member entering a CZ or QHDA on Feb. 1 and serving until May 1 will have 254 days from the date he leaves the CZ to file his return (the full 180-day extension, plus the 74 days remaining in the filing season when he entered the CZ or QHDA).

For married members filing a joint return, only one spouse needs to qualify to obtain this automatic extension. This extension is automatic and no form needs to be filed. Should the IRS contact the non-deployed spouse before the extension is up, simply return the notice to the IRS with "COMBAT ZONE EXTENSION" written across the top.

Also, when the tax return is filed, ensure "COMBAT ZONE EXTENSION" is written across the top of the return.

Another recommended practice is to keep a photocopy of any correspondence sent to or received from the IRS and send any documents to the IRS via certified mail, return receipt requested.

Another benefit to the CZ/QHDA extension is that it is also an extension of time to pay. No penalties or interest will be imposed for failure to file a return during this extension period.

In order to qualify for the extension, a member must be deployed to or in direct support of operations in a designated CZ/QHDA.

For members outside of designated CZ/QHDA to get the benefit of the extension, the deployed area or mission must be considered as providing direct support of military operations in the CZ/QHDA and the member must have received imminent danger or hostile fire pay during the period in question.

Although direct support of operations in a CZ or QHDA requires the member to receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay, receiving hostile fire or imminent danger pay alone does not qualify a member for benefits. Personnel assigned to Korea or South America may receive imminent danger pay, but those areas do not qualify for CZ/QHDA benefits.

As of Jan. 10 the following areas are designated as CZ or QHDA:

Persian Gulf Area (including Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates), Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Personnel deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Yemen, Djibouti and those deployed to the Philippines in con-

junction with Operation Enduring Freedom also qualify.

Those deployed outside the United States who do not qualify for the CZ/QHDA extension are entitled to an automatic two-month extension through June 15. However, unlike the CZ/QHDA extension, this is an extension of time to file, not an extension of time to pay. The individual will be charged interest on any amount not paid by the regular due date until the date the tax is paid. No form needs to be filed to obtain this extension. Write "TAXPAYER ABROAD" across the top of the return, and attach a statement to the return showing military service caused you to be out of the United States on the date the return was due. The member should include the name of the operation. Filing IRS form 4868 and writing "TAXPAYER ABROAD" across the top of the form may obtain an additional automatic two-month extension through Aug. 15.

Similarly, anyone can file for an automatic four-month extension by filing an IRS Form 4868. An additional two-month extension may be obtained by filing IRS form 2688. This is an extension of time to file, not an extension of time to pay. Interest will accumulate on any amount not paid.

All forms are available at www.irs.gov. Forms can also be picked up at public libraries and post offices.

Shaw's tax center is now open.

Use of the Shaw tax center is free. It is located in the Community Center. Tax advisors are available by appointment to assist active-duty members, family members and retirees with preparing and filing federal and most state tax returns. The center's phone number is **895-8775**. It is open for appointment Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will also be open Wednesdays from noon to 9 p.m. for those or who don't work regular duty hours and three Saturdays for those who live in the dormitories, tomorrow, March 8 and April 12. For those who will be filing without assistance, the center will have the necessary forms available on a walk-in basis.

For information about tax laws, call **1 (800) 829-1040**.



OPSEC reminder

Be careful of "talking shop" at home and in public places. Small pieces of information can paint a bigger picture.

Trivia contest

Question: What does the white in the shield of the Air Force seal represent?

Last week's answer: The U-2 is the aircraft known as "the dragon lady."

Last week's winner: Staff Sgt. Brian Merrifield, 28th Operational Weather Squadron

The first person to e-mail *The Shaw Spirit* at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil with the correct answer will get their name in next week's paper.



Time without an alcohol-related incident

AADD 983-9722
983-9723

Least recent

20th Component Maintenance Sq. 0 incidents

(Dates as of Feb. 5)

Most recent

20th Civil Engineer Sq.	Feb. 2, 2003	(3 days ago)
20th Equipment Maintenance Sq.	Feb. 1, 2003	(4 days ago)
20th Mission Support Sq.	Jan. 28, 2003	(8 days ago)
20th Maintenance Operations Sq.	Dec. 16, 2002	(49 days ago)
20th Logistics Readiness Sq.	Nov. 17, 2002	(78 days ago)
609th Air Communications Sq.	Nov. 17, 2002	(78 days ago)

Days without an alcohol-related incident: 2

Shaw’s lieutenant colonel-selects list

The following Shaw majors have been selected for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel: Michael Addison Jr., 9th Air Force; Kurt Austin, 609th Combat Plans Squadron; Robert Blair II, 9th AF; Jennifer Bauer, 337th Recruiting Squadron; Rolanda Burnett, 609th CPS; James Eaton III, 9th AF; Daniel Gernert, 20th Fighter Wing; Kevin Glenn, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron; Daniel Hampton, 20th Operations Support Squadron; James Harcarik, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; Daniel



Jenkins, 609th Air Support Squadron; Harold McAlduff, 9th AF; Michael McDaniel, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Martin McKinnon, 20th OSS; Michael Meyer, 609th AIS; Lucian Niemeyer II, 609th ASUS; Jonathan Portis 20th ADOS, James Pryor, 609th CPS; 20th ADOS; Roger Quinto, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron; Alan Shafer, 9th AF; Nancy Stanley, 609th ASUS; Douglas Stevenson, 9th AF; John West, 20th Security Forces Squadron; John Wilkinson, 20th Contracting Squadron; Philip Wold, 9th AF; Paul Wood, 9th AF.

20th Fighter Wing Mission Statement

To provide, project and sustain
combat - ready air forces
ANY CHALLENGE
ANYTIME
ANYWHERE

Contracting squadron leads command for awards

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

With three 2002 Air Combat Command awards, the 20th Contracting Squadron leads the command for contracting awards for the second consecutive year.

Col. Bryan Kuhlmann, 20th Mission Support Group commander, was on hand Wednesday to congratulate the squadron on all three awards.

“The relationship between this contracting squadron and the customers on base is the best that I have seen at any base in all my years in the Air Force,” said Kuhlmann.

As a unit, 20th CONS received the Outstanding Contracting Unit Award in the operational category. It was awarded to the squadron for work done from Oct. 1, 2001 – Sept. 30, 2002. According to Maj. John Wilkinson, 20th CONS commander, the work the squadron does is all about meeting the customer’s needs.

Some of the squadron’s accomplishments during the award period include being one of two bases to meet small business goals, being a 45-person unit that supports the 20th Fighter Wing, U.S. Central Command Air Forces and 24 tenant units, and executing their second annual Small Business Opportunity Forum, where 120 vendors were taught how to work with Shaw and other government agencies.

“The contracting squadron is a group of dedicated and motivated people who believe what they are doing is important,” said Wilkinson. “This award is so special because it comes to us for the work we did following the Sept. 11 events. When people were sent overseas following those events, the only

complaint I got from those who stayed behind was ‘Why can’t I go?’ Those who were still here during that time didn’t let the ball drop on the squadron’s responsibility working for the mission.”

For the second year, Keith Alverson, Business Operations director, was awarded the Small Business Achievement Award. According to, Wilkinson, there is no one more deserving of this award.

“Keith knows this business like no one else,” said Wilkinson. “His title is not deputy, but he is my right-hand man.”

Alverson’s accomplishments include negotiating the continuation of a competitive 8(a) Business Development Pro-

gram, which provides assistance to companies owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and exceeding all the program’s goal percentages for the second consecutive year. Categories for these businesses include women-owned, small-disadvantaged, historically underutilized and service-connected disabled veteran-owned.

Tom Peters, Government Purchase Card Program coordinator, is the recipient of the Special Recognition Award. The award period is the same as for the unit award. Some of his accomplishments during that time include pioneering the GPC program, sustaining GPC program support for Operation Southern Watch and instituting contingency contracting officer training to ensure fundamental knowledge is given to billing officials and cardholders.

According to Wilkinson, Peters is the Air Force’s “go-to guy” when it comes to the GPC program and can always be counted on to provide the correct information.

“Support from both (Peters and Alverson) is outstanding in making sure the customer gets what they need,” said Wilkinson.



Alverson



Peters

Stork Sorties

Jan. 3 – Gabriel Patrick to Marcus and Jackie Baker; Benjamin to Robert and Kimberly Hipple; Charles Jordan-Lamir Jacobs to Charles Jacobs and Julia Jackson

Jan. 6 – Diloncrae Mahogany to Daniel and Tiffani Ball; Raven Mackenzie Stephenson to David Sarinas and Nicole Stephenson; Malic to Jaimason and Tiffany Sunderman

Jan. 7 – Naomi Savannah to Anthony and Amanda Bagent; Caitlyn McKenzie to James and Veronica Jowers

Jan. 9 – Madison Elizabeth to Todd and Victoria Asher; Anthony Joseph to Ryan and Stacey Bellabona; Matthew Andrew to David and Rena Ford

Jan. 10 – Nikole Elise to Michael and Tiffany Laskowski; Kadence Marie to Robert and Amanda Ward

Jan. 11 – Kaitlyn Nicole to Daniel and Jocelyn Williams

Jan. 15 – Alex Natish to Ivan and Alicia Prakash

Jan. 16 – Elizabeth Anne to Stephen and Jennifer Chesser

Jan. 17 – Manaya Pearl to Jeremy and Heather Oldham

Jan. 18 – Aneve Eden to Erik and Christina Brown

Jan. 21 – Olivia Madison to Jeffrey and Crystal Olberding

Jan. 23 – Rhionna Skye Boyle to Robert Boyle and Jahnnna Geddings-Boyle; Jawon Randall to Charles Murray and Patricia Randall; Jordan Christopher to Harold and Stacie Green

Jan. 24 – Madelyn Nicole to Christopher and Christina Fox; Charlotte Grace to Kevin and Kathryn Fry

Jan. 27 – Morgan Delaney to Jeff and Rebecca Dawson; Kaitlyn Maree to Bobby and Alma Domanski

Jan. 28 – Rylee Christine to Gregory and Ann Cotterill

Jan. 29 – Robert Hunter Allen to Robert Allen and Amber Truschka; Zoey MacKenzie to Ravenel and Yhashata Bright; Seth Michael to Shawn and Christy Yoder